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NPIC/TSSG/RED-1973-69
18 December 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Informal Proposal for Integration of the NPIC R&D Program

[REDACTED]

1. At approximately 1000 hours on 17 December 1969, I was called up to [REDACTED] office to discuss the subject proposal with [REDACTED]. He informed me that this proposal, which existed in a rough draft form, was the result of conversations that he had had with [REDACTED] and other discussions between [REDACTED] and other representatives of [REDACTED]. The original initiation of the proposal was caused by discussions I had with Mr. [REDACTED] (instruction) about a year ago, when I was still Chief of the Projects and Programs Staff. This in turn had probably resulted from an unsolicited proposal I had received from [REDACTED] on the same subject.

2. [REDACTED] and I reviewed and discussed most of the major portions of the subject proposal. He informed me that this kind of work was not a typical capability of his organization, but that the relationship they had with [REDACTED] was such that he believed the combination of capabilities available from both these organizations would provide meaningful, management oriented guidelines for the origination, pursuit, and application of our R&D program. He also advised me that his management was not particularly disposed toward proposing in this area, which was the reason for the informal review prior to submission of the proposal.

3. A few weeks back some remarks, written by [REDACTED] and initialed by [REDACTED] were forwarded to me concerning a briefing given by [REDACTED] on this subject. My recollection of [REDACTED] remarks is that he felt that [REDACTED] had not discussed anything sufficiently new over his previous related efforts here in the building to warrant further interest in his proposal on the subject. Since my initial discussions with [REDACTED] there have been considerable changes in the R&D situation. First, [REDACTED] has demonstrated competence in the R&D management area which is giving direct evidence of the solution of the main problems I discussed with [REDACTED] second, the change in Executive Directors for the Center; and third, the change in my own position.

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[REDACTED]

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4. In light of the matters discussed in the preceding paragraphs and the fact that the review of the subject proposal demonstrated to me that there was very little in it that showed any promise of increasing the knowledge and effectiveness of our present R&D management, I recommended to [REDACTED] that his company put no further effort in this proposal and that our situation is such that we no longer anticipate a need for contractual support in this area.

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5. One item in the report, which I believe is of some interest to us, is the disclosure of a R&D management simulation program established by NASA. This is actually a training program intended to develop the management capability of personnel believed to have management potential. The simulation is performed by a complex computer program; the trainee is presented with R&D contract program management problems to which he introduces suggested solutions. The situation varies as functions of these inputs and realistic dynamics of real life situations which in turn require new decisions from the trainee. Ultimately, the trainee is able to see what the probable results of his decision would be and to learn accordingly. [REDACTED] offered to make more information about this simulation available to me, which I readily accepted. I anticipate no other contacts from him regarding the subject proposal except a possible telephone call to [REDACTED] for confirmation of my recommendation.

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[REDACTED]

Special Assistant for Plans & Applications, RED

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NPIC/TSSG/RED/[REDACTED] (18 December 1969)

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